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Dear Family,

STAT The big event of the week was that Patricia and I took four days off and went out to Phoenix for a tennis tournament. Once a year the John Gardner tennis ranch in Phoenix has a charity tournament for senators, a few government officials, a few businessmen, and a few Hollywood personalities. Our friends here in Washington, [redacted] who have been involved in this arranged to get us invited. I accepted on the hope that I would be able to take some time off and get a break from the rather strenuous Iranian-Afghan routine. As always, things seemed busy up to the last minute but I just decided that it was worth getting away for a few days.

We flew out after I had given the President one of my regular briefings on Wednesday noon. We made a stop on the way to do some business and that delayed our getting to Phoenix until about midnight. What a marvelous place we found we had come to, however. John Gardner's tennis ranch is on the north side of the Camel Back Mountain. It's a series of small adobe guest houses scattered up and down the hillside with one central dining room facility and tennis center. We, however, were given one of three full-scale houses that are on the property. Some people apparently buy these as an investment. They're rented out most of the year but the owner can come and use them when he wants.

Thus, we had a lovely three-bedroom home with a large living room with fireplace, our own tennis court adjacent to the house, and a magnificent seven-foot diameter heated Jacuzzi whirlpool. From the terrace there was a lovely view up to the Camel Back hump.

STAT The next morning we found out that just everything about the place was delightful. The food was absolutely magnificent. The service was superb in every respect -- a lot of young people, all of whom just couldn't do enough to help out. I did a little business in Phoenix on Thursday morning but came back in time for lunch and a tennis lesson that Pat had signed me up for. Following that she and I played tennis with the [redacted]. She was so improved that we trounced them the first set but slacked off and lost in the second.

The first night we went to a cocktail party at John Gardner's house which was way up above the ranch perched on the side of the mountain with one of the most spectacular nighttime views we've ever seen. There we began to see the galaxy of stars who were

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coming to this event. There were twelve senators, most of whom I knew fairly well and some of whom were quite good friends. From the business world there was an assortment of people, some young and some old, but all good tennis enthusiasts. Among them were all the moguls of U.S. baseball, including the overall commissioner and the presidents of the two major leagues. From Hollywood Merv Griffin was the leading person and he apparently participates in this event every year. He brought with him Eva Gabor, Clint Eastwood, and Carl Reiner. Patricia has been ribbing me ever since I was introduced to Clint Eastwood in the crowd and didn't catch his name. I was on the verge of asking him what he did when I heard someone mention his name!

Some of the more interesting people were not as notorious. For instance, my tennis partner for Friday and Saturday was Alexander Shields. He is a men's clothes designer, primarily tennis clothes, with a store on Park Avenue in New York. He and his wife turned out to be delightful people. On top of that he was a good tennis player and between us we managed to take second place in the part of the tournament that was just for the guests and celebrities. The other part was just for senators. We lost to Merv Griffin and a young businessman from Los Angeles who was a terrific tennis player.

Another young and interesting person was Gay Talese, author of the books The Kingdom and the Power and Honor Thy Father. He has a new book coming out in May called Thy Neighbor's Wife. It traces the revolution in sexual mores in the United States over the past sixty years and a discussion of how and why sex has become so much more public today. Interestingly, he does this not by way of a study or a textbook but by turning it into a story -- not a novel, as he uses real persons' names.

All in all it was a marvelous and relaxing opportunity for us -- interesting company -- a lot of tennis (I played over a hundred and four games in three days and had two lessons) -- and marvelous surroundings and food.

We flew back on Sunday in time to watch the Super Bowl. I feel rested and relaxed.